

SS SB 13 -- FIREARMS MANUFACTURER LAWSUITS

SPONSOR: Kinder (Byrd)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass" by the Committee on Judiciary by a vote of 10 to 8.

This substitute prohibits political subdivisions and the state from bringing a legal action against firearms manufacturers, trade associations, or dealers for activities relating to the lawful design, manufacture, or sale of firearms. The prohibition applies to suits pending as of the effective date of the substitute and all future suits.

An exception allows political subdivisions to file an action claiming a breach of contract for the purchase of firearms or ammunition. The substitute also specifies that the lawful design, marketing, manufacture, or sale of firearms or ammunition is not an unreasonably dangerous activity and is not a nuisance per se.

FISCAL NOTE: No impact on state funds.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that the substitute is necessary to prevent legal industries from being sued solely for manufacturing, distributing, marketing, or selling a lawfully designed product. These types of lawsuits shift the blame from criminals to manufacturers.

Testifying for the bill were Senator Kinder; and Missouri Chamber of Commerce.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

Julie Jinkens McNitt, Legislative Analyst